

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Hebrews 6:1-3**.
- B. From Roy Enoch.
- C. Complacency is incompatible w/true Xianity.
 - 1. Congregations must not be satisfied with what they have done and what they are doing (Rev. 3:14-20).
 - 2. Individual Xians need to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord" (2Pet. 3:18).
- D. Our text becomes a challenge to all of us.
 - 1. We need to know what "perfection" means.
 - a. It is not to be confused with "sinless perfection" (1Jn. 1:8; 2:1-2).
 - b. It is the same word that Paul uses in 1Cor. 2:6.
 - 2. The context of Heb. 6:1 gives an explanation of "perfection" since the same word is translated "full age" in Heb. 5:14.
 - 3. Therefore the word "perfection" here means "full age" or mature.

I. THE "PERFECT" PERSON HAS THE ABILITY TO EAT "SOLID FOOD."

- A. God's word is food for the spirit.
 - 1. "Man shall not live by bread alone," (Mt. 4:4) because there is more to man than the physical body (2Cor. 4:16).
 - 2. God's word is "milk" for new Xians (1Pet. 2:1-2).
 - 3. God's word is also "solid food" for Xians who are "mature" (2Pet. 3:16).
- B. The "mature" Xian does not want the preacher to please men, but God (Gal. 1:10).
- C. Those who become hurt, offended, or angry at God's truth are immature.
 - 1. The truth may be concerning their responsibility in giving (2Cor. 9:6).
 - 2. Some take offense when one points out the "works of the flesh" (Gal. 5:19-21).
 - 3. The truth concerning our life and work does not offend mature Xians (1Cor. 15:58).

II. THE "PERFECT" PERSON HAS THE ABILITY TO DISCERN GOOD FROM EVIL.

- A. Only the naive, the immature, or the deceived would conclude that there is no "good" or "evil," but that "everything is relative."
- B. God's people are to "prove all things, and hold fast to what is good" (1Thess. 5:21).
 - 1. There are specific statements in God's word about things that are sinful (Gal. 5:19-21).
 - 2. There are principles to guide saints in all areas of life (2Tim. 3:16-17).
For example, the true relationship between the Xian and material things is given in the story of the rich farmer (Lk. 12:12-21).
- C. Mature people have their "senses exercised to discern both good and evil" (Heb. 5:14).
 - 1. Some are "immature" and have difficulty recognizing either good or evil.
 - 2. Those who are spiritually mature will not engage in a practice w/o determining whether it is approved by God's word.

III. THE "PERFECT" PERSON CONTROLS THEIR TONGUE.

- A. Men tame animals but they cannot "tame the tongue" (Jas. 3:2).
 - 1. One can never get to the point that he can remove all restraint from the tongue and expect to do right (Jas. 3:7-8).
 - 2. Therefore, one must work at controlling the tongue (Jas. 3:8).

- B. The tongue is powerful.
 1. With the tongue, one may give to another the words of life.
 2. But with the tongue, one may discourage and condemn, or even destroy a person.
 3. The bit controls the horse (Jas. 3:3).
 4. Ships are controlled by a rudder (Jas. 3:4).
 5. If one can control the most unruly part of the body, the tongue, he can control his entire body (Jas. 3:2).

IV. THE "PERFECT" PERSON LOVES HIS ENEMIES.

- A. The Lord commands "love your enemies," and tells how (Mt. 5:44-45,48).
 1. The word for "love" in these verses is *agape* and means "to do what is right" or "benevolence in action."
 2. It is not *phileo* which means "a feeling of affection."
 3. "Loving enemies" is described by three terms: "bless," "do good" and "pray for."
- B. It is no test of character to love those who love us (Mt. 5:45).
- C. God is our example of how to "love" or "do good" to those who are unlovable.
- D. Our Lord gives us examples of how to "love our enemies" (Rom. 5:8; Lk. 23:34).
- E. Only those who are "full grown" or "perfect" spiritually can sincerely seek to help those who strive to do them evil.

V. THE "PERFECT" PERSON REALIZES HIS IMPERFECTIONS.

- A. See Phil. 3:13-15.
- B. He knows that he has no real reason to be self-righteous (Lk. 18:9-10).
- C. He will not measure his life by others, but by X (2Cor. 10:12).
- D. He knows that he needs to continually grow and develop (2Pet. 3:18).
- E. The person who becomes satisfied w/what he has done for the Lord, to the extent that he no longer strives to grow, is reflecting spiritual immaturity (Phil.3:15).

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Heb. 6:1 is not only a challenge to grow to "perfection" or "maturity" but it also an admonition and encouragement.
- B. The "perfection" that God requires is maturity or growing up.
- C. We have studied some of the characteristics of this maturity.
- D. In light of these characteristics, one should "examine himself" (2Cor. 13:5), that he might "go on unto perfection."
- E. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.